

DOUBLEDAY PLANS COSMONAUT FILM

New Division to Use Soviet
Footage in Documentary

By GEORGE GENT

Utilizing exclusive Soviet film, Doubleday & Co., the book publisher, will produce documentaries on the Soviet space program and on the German-Soviet fighting from 1941 to 1945.

The documentaries will be made for television and theatrical release under the supervision of a new division, Doubleday Productions, Inc.

The division will be headed by Alexander Hoffman, group vice president of the parent company, with Joseph Kotler, a former vice president of Warner Bros. Television, associate and consultant. An executive producer will be named later.

Commenting on Doubleday's entry into general film production—the company's Multimedia division is already active in educational films—Mr. Hoffman said he was encouraged by the flexibility of the current communications scene. He cited cable TV, public television, home cassettes for film and TV shows and theatrical distribution, as well as network, local and syndicated television, as possible outlets for Doubleday Productions.

Accord With Novosti

The company has already begun to collect film footage on the Soviet cosmonauts for a documentary that is expected to be completed within six months. Under an agreement reached last spring with the television division of the Novosti Press Agency, Doubleday will have complete access to the Soviet agency's unclassified film files.

Doubleday will also be permitted to send its own cameramen to the Soviet Union to film additional footage. The documentary, as yet untitled, will trace the history of the Soviet space program, with particular emphasis on the personal lives of the cosmonauts. Included will be scenes of the 18-day manned flight of last June.

The agreement was negotiated by Stewart Richardson, Doubleday's executive editor, and Rafael Saakov, who heads Novosti's TV division.

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